

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 SSM-03 SSO-00 INRE-00 /074 W
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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8258

INFO AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA

AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USLO RIYADH

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AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

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NSC WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (PARA 1 LINE 7)

LONDON FOR SECRETARY'S PARTY

NSC FOR DR. BRZEZINSKI

WHITE HOUSE FOR MR. POWELL

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E.O. 11652: NA/A

TAGS: OVIP (VANCE, CYRUS R.) EG IS XF US

SUBJECT: AUGUST 12 MEDIA ON VANCE RETURN

REF: CAIRO 13345H

SUMMARY: MEDIA FEATURES SADAT'S REFUSAL "TO MAKE CONCES-

SIONS" AND HIS CALL FOR DIALOGUE WITH COUNTRY'S LEADERSHIP
TO "REEVALUATE (I'ADA TAQWIM) SITUATION FROM ALL ASPECTS."
SECRETARY VANCE SAID TO SEE ISRAEL AS "INTRANSIGENT" AND
ASSURES U.S. COMMITTED TO PALESTINIAN HOMELAND, WITH-
DRAWAL TO 1967 BORDERS AND DIRECT DIALOGUE WITH PLO IF
IT ACCEPTS 242 WITH RESERVATIONS. U.S.-ISRAELI CLASH
SAID TO BE UNAVOIDABLE. PALESTINIAN CONTACTS CONTINUE BUT
ARAFAT NOWHERE IN SIGHT. SADAT INCREASINGLY CONCERNED
WITH ISRAELI "AGGRESSION" IN SOUTH LEBANON, A "TRICK" TO
WARD OFF CRISIS WITH U.S. HE WILL SEND URGENT MESSAGES
TO ARAB LEADERS ON RIGHTIST "REQUEST TO BEGIN FOR PROTEC-
TION". SADAT STATEMENTS AND MEDIA TREATMENT SUGGEST BOTH EGYPTIAN
SATISFACTION WITH U.S. STAND AND CONCERN OVER ISRAELI "INTRANSIGENCE".

END SUMMARY.

1. VANCE-SADAT MEETING. PRESS REPORTS OF AUGUST 11
MEETING BETWEEN SECRETARY VANCE AND SADAT FUZZ OVER
DISTINCTION BETWEEN THEIR SHORT STATEMENTS MADE AFTER
MEETING AND SADAT'S SEPARATE COMMENTS
TO AHRAM AND GUMHURIYYA AT SOME POINT. AHRAM HIGH-
LIGHTS SADAT DECLARATION THAT "EGYPT REFUSES TO MAKE CONCES-
SIONS AND REJECTS ISRAEL'S HARD LINE." SADAT EXPRESSED
HOPE THAT ISRAEL WOULD UNDERSTAND ITS ATTITUDE COULD PRODUCE
NO RESULTS. "IF ISRAEL WANTS PEACE, WE ARE READY, BUT, IF
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NOT, EGYPT IN NO HURRY." SADAT REITERATED CONFIDENCE IN
CARTER ADMINISTRATION BUT "UNDERLINED THAT SECOND DISENGAGEMENT
AGREEMENT WILL EXPIRE IN OCTOBER 1978." SADAT
ALSO ADID HE LOOKED FORWARD TO HAVING FOREIGN MINISTERS
MEET WITH VANCE DURING UNGA, BUT STRESSED THAT JOINT
MEETINGS OF ISRAELI AND ARAB FOREIGN MINISTERS COULD NOT
TAKE PLACE.

2. U.S. VIEWS. SECRETARY, ACCORDING PRESS REPORTS, DISCUSSED
WITH SADAT HIS MEETINGS IN ISRAEL AND REPORTED ON OUTCOME
OF HIS TOUR IN GENERAL. ACCORDING AHRAM, SECRETARY SAID
USG ADHERES TO ALL "COMMITMENTS" MADE BY PRESIDENT CARTER
TO SADAT DURING HIS VISIT TO WASHINGTON. GUMHURIYYA LEARNS
THAT VANCE TOLD SADAT THAT U.S. COMMITTED TO DIRECT DIALOGUE
WITH PLO IF IT ACCEPTS RESOLUTION 242 WITH RESERVATIONS.
ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL TO 1967 BORDERS WITH MINOR AMENDMENTS
IN WEST BANK; AND PALESTINIAN PARTICIPATION AT GENEVA.
ABOVE DESCRIBED AS BASIS OF DIFFERENCES BETWEEN U.S. AND
ISRAEL. USG HAS TOLD ISRAELIS, HOWEVER, THAT "U.S. STAND
NOT SUBJECT TO ANY BARGAINING." "AMERICAN SOURCES" SAID VANCE
ENDING HIS TOUR WITH "DEFINITE FEELING THAT ISRAEL DOES
NOT REALLY WANT TO CHANGE ITS POSITION. ISRAEL REJECTS

WITHDRAWAL AND REFUSES TO RECOGNIZE PLO. ISRAEL ALSO REJECTS ALL PROPOSED FORMULAE FOR RECONVENING GENEVA. POINTS RAISED ARE PROCEDURAL, BUT THEY IMPLY REJECTION OF ALL OPPORTUNITIES FOR PEACE. ACCORDING SOURCES, SECRETARY INCREASINGLY CONVINCED THAT THIS IS TRUE RENDITION OF ISRAELI VIEWS BUT STATED THAT U.S. POSITION WILL CONTINUE TO REFLECT FRAMEWORK DRAWN UP BY PRESIDENT CARTER WITH REGARD TO PALESTINIANS (I.E. HOMELAND) AND ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL TO INTERNATIONAL BORDERS.

3. LEBANON. SADAT REPORTEDLY TOLD SECRETARY OF HIS GROWING CONCERN WITH "RENEWED ISRAELI AGGRESSION IN SOUTH LEBANON." SADAT SAID TO BELIEVE THAT TOUGHER PALESTINIAN ATTITUDE BOUND TO RESULT FROM ISRAELI ATTACKS.
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ACCORDING TO AHRAH, HE SENDING URGENT MESSAGES TO ARAB LEADERS ON "DETERIORATING SITUATION" IN SOUTH LEBANON. SADAT LEARNED "WITH SORROW AND REGRET THAT PARTIES IN LEBANON (CHRISTIANS) ASKING FOR PROTECTION FROM BEGIN."

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4. NATIONAL DIALOGUE. ALL PAPERS REPORT SADAT IS ABOUT TO
ENGAGE IN EXTENDED DIALOGUE WITH POLITICAL, POPULAR AND
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PRESS ORGANIZATIONS ON MIDDLE EAST (AND PRESUMABLY, INTERNAL
QUESTIONS DESPITE FACT THAT DURING RAMADAN (BEGINNING AUGUST 15
OR 16) PRESIDENT NORMALLY "TAKES UP MEDITATION". PROCESS
WILL BEGIN AUGUST 14 IN MEETING WITH EGYPTIAN STUDENTS FROM U.S. AND
CANADA. RADIO CAIRO DESCRIBES THIS PROCESS AS BEGINNING OF
"REEVALUATION" (I'ADA TAQWIM) BY SADAT OF EGYPTIAN VIEWS ON ME.

5. PALESTINIANS. PRESS STILL CONTINUES TO REPORT FLURRY
OF PALESTINIAN ACTIVITY IN WAKE OF U.S. STATEMENTS ON 242.
EGYPTIAN-PALESTINIAN COORDINATING COMMITTEE DUE TO MEET
AGAIN AUGUST 12. PRESS REPORTS FARUQ QADDUMI ARRIVED
ALEXANDRIA AUGUST 11, ACCOMPANIED BY FATAH OFFICIAL ABU
MAZEN TO PARTICIPATE. ARAFAT WELFARE AND WHEREABOUTS, HOW-
EVER, OBJECT OF SOME PRESS CONFUSION. EGYPTIAN GAZETTE
REPORTED, ERRONEOUSLY, MEETING BETWEEN ARAFAT AND SADAT
AUGUST 11 AND EXPECTS THAT THEY WILL MEET AGAIN TODAY. NO
OTHER PRESS REPORTS OF HIS ARRIVAL PLANS, HOWEVER. VOICE OF
PALESTINE MEANWHILE KEPT UP TART CRITICISM OF U.S., IN-
CLUDING ISRAEL AND JORDAN IN ITS ATTACKS AUGUST 11.
COMMENTED THAT ARAB CONCESSIONS HAVE HAD EFFECT OF
STIFFENING ISRAELI POSITIONS RATHER THAN
INDUCING FLEXIBILITY. PRESS CARRIES DENIAL OF JERUSALEM POST STORY
THAT AMBASSADOR EILTS MET SECRETLY WITH PLO REP.

6. COMMENTARY. GUMHURIYYA WROTE THAT, FOR FIRST TIME,
U.S. TAKING PRINCIPLED STAND ON MIDDLE EAST "WHICH NOT
SUBJECT TO BARGAINING OR RETREAT". DESCRIBED SADAT AS
SATISFIED. THROUGH VANCE MISSION, "ARAB" DIPLOMACY (MAINLY
EGYPTIAN BUT WITH BOW TO SAUDIS) HAS MADE MAJOR ACCOMPLISH-

MENTS: (A) ARAB FLEXIBILITY HAS HIGHLIGHTED ISRAELI EXTREMISM WHICH IS ABOUT TO PRODUCE CLASH WITH U.S. ABSOLUTE U.S. SUPPORT OF ISRAELI POLICY WILL NOW DISSIPATE; (B) ARAB DIPLOMACY HAS MANAGED TO ACHIEVE FIRST STEP LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TOWARDS DIRECT DIALOGUE BETWEEN PLO AND USG WHICH WILL PLAY IMPORTANT ROLE IN SOLUTION. "IT TAKEN FOR GRANTED, HOWEVER, THAT MORE COMPLICATED AND DIFFICULT STEPS ARE STILL TO BE TAKEN." AHRAH SAID IT TOO EARLY TO JUDGE OUTCOME OF VANCE MIDDLE EAST TOUR. ISRAELI HARD LINE NO LONGER IMPORTANT. NEW WORLD HAS EMERGED SINCE VICTORY OF OCTOBER 1973 AND ALL THAT MATTERS NOW IS ARAB DETERMINATION TO FORCE PEACE ON ISRAEL.

7. COMMENT: PRESS TREATMENT SEEMS DESIGNED TO SUGGEST THAT ARAB CAUSE HAS BEEN WELL SERVED BY CLOSE GOE CONSULTATIONS WITH U.S. AND THAT U.S. STANDING FIRM IN FACE ISRAELI "INTRANSIGENCE." MEANWHILE, SADAT CLEARLY NOT EAGER TO GO INTO PRESENT SITUATION IN PUBLIC AT ANY LENGTH. WE EXPECT THAT, WHEN ARAFAT DOES FINALLY ARRIVE, SADAT WILL ALSO COUNSEL PRUDENCE IN PUBLIC STATEMENTS PENDING OUTCOME OF PALESTINIAN MEETINGS IN DAMASCUS NEXT WEEK.

9. GOE CONCERN OVER BEGIN'S HARD LINE POLICIES AND OUTCOME OF PLO DELIBERATIONS NEVERTHELESS SHOWS THROUGH IN SADAT'S REMINDER ON EXPIRATION OF SINAI II, RADIO'S FOCUS ON EGYPTIAN "REEVALUATION", AND CONCERN OVER SOUTH LEBANON. EILTS

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